claimants. A Scheme known as Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster (Registration and Processing of Claims) Scheme has also been formulated and notified under the Act for the purpose of expeditious determination and disposal of claims.

Closure of cycle mobile post offices

1422. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have decided to close down all the cycle mobile post offices in different towns and cities and to keep the only main offices to function in the name of economy;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government are considering to abolish home delivery and in its place propose to introduce delivery booth system; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that as a result of this as many as 1000 extra departmental personnel have been rendered unemployed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) No, Sir. Cycle post offices were introduced in urban areas mainly with a view to providing postal facilities where regular post offices have not been opened due to non-availability of accommodation or other reasons. The scheme is therefore reviewed from time to time having regard to the regular postal network that has been developed and also in the light of the standing instructions that in urban areas, post offices, mobile or stationary, should be financially self-supporting. As a result of such reviews conducted in some areas by the concerned postal authorities, cycle post offices considered redundant or were not financially self-supporting were withdrawn. There is however no general decision to withdraw all cycle post offices functioning in different towns/cities.

(b) No, Sir. The facility of door to door delivery of postal articles continues to be provided all over the country.

(c) No, Sir. The number of extra departmental employees rendered surplus to immediate requirements as a result of discontinuance of cycle post offices in some areas does not exceed 200. Some of the extra -departmental employees affected have also been reabsorbd in other available vacancies.

Telephone connections in Meghalaya

1423. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in each district of Meghalaya;

(b) what is the programme for giving telephone connections in each district of Meghalaya during the next five years, and

(c) by when all the persons on the waiting list are likely to be provided with telephone connections in Meghalaya?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) The number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in each district of Meghalaya is as follows:

1.	East Khasi Hills	— 816
2.	West Khasi Hills	— 2
3.	Jaintia Hills	— 26
4.	East Garo Hills	— 4
5.	West Garo Hills	— 59

(b) and (c) The programme for giving new connections district-wise for the next five years has not yet been drawn up. However, the applicants on the waiting list at present will be given connections in each District as follows:-

1.	East Khasi Hills	— During 1986-87
2.	West Khasi Hills	— During 1986-87
3.	Jaintia Hills	During 1986-87 (1988-89)
4.	East Garo Hills	— During 1986-87
5.	West Garo Hills	— During 1988-89